CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A document display system, comprising:

document storage means for storing a group of documents exchanged via a network;

related information storage means for storing related information in the group of documents stored in the document storage means; and

display document generation means for forming a section group and for generating a display document by embedding a document read from the document storage means into a section that is a component of the section group.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the display document generation means forms the section group by embedding a document header and a level indicating a depth of hierarchy from a main document.

3. The system according to claim 1, wherein the related information storage means stores information of a parent document related to the document read from the document storage means.

4. A document display system, comprising:

a message storage unit for storing messages forming a thread;

an index storage unit for storing index information on a thread composition in the messages; and

a display document generation unit for generating a section corresponding to the index information by fetching an index of a given message from the index storage unit,

wherein the display document generation unit is used to invoke the given message from the message storage unit and to add the given message to a display document by embedding the given message into the section.

5. The system according to claim 4, further comprising an expansion condition storage unit for storing an expansion condition of the message, wherein the display document generation unit generates a section by fetching an expansion condition of the given message from the expansion condition storage unit.

6. The system according to claim 4, further comprising a user interactive processing unit for accepting an expansion request to a header from a user, wherein the display document generation unit is used to add the given message to the display document on the basis of the expansion request accepted by the user interactive processing unit.

7. A document display method comprising:

acquiring related information between documents in a thread from a storage device;

generating a section group based on the related information acquired from the storage device in a virtual document;

reading a document corresponding to a given section which is a component of the section group from the storage device; and

embedding the read document into the given section and adding the read document to a display document.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the section group is generated from a group of documents exchanged via a network.

9. The method according to claim 7, wherein the documents in the thread comprise a collection of documents that are not scheduled for editing.

10. The method according to claim 7, wherein acquiring the related information between documents in the thread comprises extracting a relation between documents as a tree structure; and

wherein generating the section group in the virtual document comprises generating the section group by using the extracted tree structure.

11. A document display method comprising:

combining documents exchanged via a network;

storing headers of the combined documents into a memory;

keeping a relation between the combined documents;

storing a given document corresponding to a given header stored in the memory along with the relation between the combined documents into the memory; and

outputting a content stored in the memory as a display document.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein storing the headers of the combined documents into the memory comprises generating a section group having a tree structure in a virtual document.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein storing the given document into the memory comprises storing a content of the given document corresponding to the section group along with the tree structure.

14. A computer program product having instruction codes for displaying a document, comprising:

a first set of instruction codes for acquiring related information between documents in a thread;

a second set of instruction codes for generating a section group based on the acquired related information in a virtual document;

a third set of instruction codes for reading a document corresponding to a given section that is a component of the section group from a storage device; and

a fourth set of instruction codes for embedding the read document into the given section and adding the read document to a display document.

15. The computer program product according to claim 14, further comprising a fifth set of instruction codes for storing the related information between the documents into a storage device.

16. The computer program product according to claim 14, wherein the first set of instruction codes acquires the related information between the documents in the thread by extracting a relation of the documents as a tree structure.

17. The computer program product according to claim 16, wherein the second set of instruction codes generates the section group in the virtual document by generating the section group having the extracted tree structure.

18. The computer program product according to claim 17, wherein the fourth set of instruction codes adds the document to the display document by adding the document along with the tree structure.

19. A computer program product having instruction codes for displaying a document, comprising:

a first set of instruction codes for combining documents exchanged via a network and for storing headers of the documents along with a relation between the documents, into a memory;

a second set of instruction codes for storing a document corresponding to a given header stored in the memory along with the relation between the documents into the memory; and

a third set of instruction codes for outputting a content stored in the memory as a display document.

20. The program product according to claim 19, wherein the first set of instruction codes stores the headers of the documents into the memory by generating a section group having a tree structure in a virtual document; and

wherein the second set of instruction codes stores the document into the memory by storing a content of the document corresponding to a given section along with the tree structure.